## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- A speech processing method comprising:
   scaling a decision tree-based model for a given task.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the decision tree-based model is a decision tree-based hidden markov model (HMM).
- The method of claim 1, further comprising:
   adapting the scaled decision tree-based model for the given task.
- A speech processing system comprising:
   a memory to store a decision tree-based model for a given task; and
   a processor to scale the decision tree-based model for the given task.
- 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the decision tree-based model is a decision tree-based hidden markov model (HMM).
- 6. The system of claim 4, wherein the processor is to adapt the scaled decision treebased model for the given task.
- 7. A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising: scaling a decision tree-based model for a given task.
- 8. The machine-readable medium of claim 7, further providing instructions, which if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations of:

  scaling the decision tree-based model based on a hidden markov model (HMM) for the given task.
- 9. The machine-readable medium of claim 7, further providing instructions, which if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations of:

adapting the scaled decision tree-based model for the given task.

- 10. A speech processing method comprising: collecting a vocabulary knowledge of a given task; and trimming down a general model according to the vocabulary knowledge of the given task.
- 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising: adapting the trim-down general model for the given task.
- 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the adapting the trim-down general model includes:

collecting adaptation data, the adaptation data being related to the given task; and

adapting the trim-down general model to a task dependent model using the adaptation data.

- 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
  interpolating the trim-down general model with the task dependent model to obtain a task specific model.
- 14. The method of claim 10, wherein the general model is a hidden markov model (HMM).
- 15. A speech processing system comprising:
  - a memory to store a general model; and
- a processor to collect a vocabulary knowledge of a given task and to trim down the general model according to the vocabulary knowledge of the given task.
- 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the processor is to adapt the trim-down general model for the given task.

- 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the processor is to collect adaptation data, the adaptation data being related to the given task and adapt the trim-down general model to a task dependent model using the adaptation data.
- 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the processor is to interpolate the trim-down general model with the task dependent model to obtain a task specific model.
- 19. The system of claim 15, wherein the general model is a hidden markov model (HMM).
- 20. A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations comprising:

collecting a vocabulary knowledge of a given task; and trimming down a general model according to the vocabulary knowledge of the given task.

- 21. The machine-readable medium of claim 20, further providing instructions, which if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations of: adapting the trim-down general model for the given task.
- 22. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, further providing instructions, which if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations of: collecting adaptation data, the adaptation data being related to the given task; and

adapting the trim-down general model to a task dependent model using the adaptation data.

23. The machine-readable medium of claim 7, further providing instructions, which if executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the operations of:

interpolating the trim-down general model with the task dependent model to obtain a task specific model.